REMARKS

By the present amendment, claim 34 has been added. Support for claim 34 is found in claim 18 and on page 5, lines 32-33.

Claims 1-34 are pending in the present application. Independent claim 1, and claims 2-12, 16-20, and 28-34 dependent directly or indirectly thereon, are directed to an optical film. Independent claims 13-15, and 21-27 dependent directly or indirectly thereon, are directed to a liquid crystal display.

In the Office Action dated July 13, 2004, claims 1-7, 11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP 6-59123 ("Yoshimi"), claims 8-10 and 28-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Yoshimi in view of US 6,498,633 to Ozeki et al. ("Ozeki"), claims 12, 16, 21, 23, 25, and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Yoshimi in view of US 6,088,079 to Kameyama et al. ("Kameyama"), claims 30-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Yoshimi in view of US 6,654,085 to Koike et al. ("Koike"), and claims 32-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Yoshimi in view of US 6,094,245 to Ochi et al. ("Ochi").

In the Advisory Action dated December 9, 2004, it is alleged that paragraph [0020] of Yoshimi supports the rejections made in the Office Action, i.e., that this paragraph discloses the combination of two polarizer portions as recited in the present claims.

Applicants refer to the translation of paragraph [0020] of Yoshimi which is submitted with this paper.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested. Paragraph [0020] of Yoshimi discloses examples of liquid crystal display devices with reference to Figs. 5-7

(see line 4). Further, Yoshimi states:

> As shown in the figures, required numbers of the polarizing plates and the retardation films can be combined suitably to apply to one or both surfaces of the liquid crystal cell.

This sentence does not teach or suggest laminating two polarizing plates on one side of the liquid crystal cell.

First, grammatically, this sentence starts with the expression "[a]s shown in the figures", which means that the embodiments suggested in this sentence correspond to those illustrated in the drawings. In the drawings, a plurality of retardation plates is shown, but there is always only one polarizing plate on each side of the liquid crystal cell. Thus, a person of the art, upon reading this sentence and referring to the drawings, would not find a suggestion that two polarizing plates could be "combined suitably" on one side of a liquid crystal cell, since such a construction is not "shown in the figures". Rather, a person of the art would understand the sentence as meaning that the polarizing plate and the retardation film can be applied to "both surfaces" (i.e., opposite surfaces) of the liquid crystal cell, and that one or two retardation films can be applied to one surface of the liquid crystal cell, but that only one polarizing plate is applied to one surface of the liquid crystal cell. In other words, the "required numbers" of retardation films may be disposed on one side, as shown in the figures, but the "required numbers" of polarizing plates are disposed on "both surfaces" of the liquid crystal cell, as shown in the figures, but not on "one surface" since this is not shown in the figures.

Second, the technical understanding of the person of the art would reinforce the above interpretation. The common knowledge in the art is that one polarizing plate is provided on the visible side of the liquid crystal cell, another polarizing plate is provided on the backlight side of

the liquid crystal cell, and the absorption axes of the two polarizing plates will cross at right angles to each other. Thus, providing two polarizing plates on one side of a liquid crystal cell is contrary to this common knowledge. Since Yoshimi fails to disclose any advantages of overlapping two polarizing plates, a person of the art would determine that Figures 5-7 of Yoshimi are consistent with this common knowledge. As a result, the person of the art would read paragraph [0020] consistent with common knowledge, as explained above (i.e., at most one polarizing plate on each surface of the liquid crystal cell), and would not find a suggestion or motivation to provide two polarizing plates on one side of the liquid crystal cell.

In summary, Yoshimi fails to teach or suggest a polarizing plate comprising a polarizer with laminated first portion and second portion as recited in the present claims. Further, the other cited references fail to remedy the deficiencies of Yoshimi. Therefore, the present claims are not obvious over the cited references taken alone or in any combination.

In addition, with respect to claim 34, it is submitted that a person of the art would not find any suggestion or motivation in Yoshimi to directly adhere polarizers of a plurality of polarizing plates while providing a protective film on one or both sides of the adhered polarizers. Further, the other cited references fail to remedy this deficiency of Yoshimi. Therefore, for this reason alone, claim 34 is not obvious over the cited references taken alone or in any combination.

Also, regarding the other dependent claims, the combinations of features recited in these respective claims are not obvious over the cited references taken alone or in any combination.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejections should be withdrawn.

In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

Nicolas E. Seckel
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,373

Atty. Docket No. 020582
Customer No.: 38834
1250 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 822-1100
Fax: (202) 822-1111
NES:rep

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(54) [Title of the invention] **POLARIZING PLATE AND LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAY DEVICE**

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[0020] A liquid crystal display device of the present invention is formed by disposing the above-mentioned polarizing plate on one or both surfaces of a liquid crystal cell. An example of the liquid crystal display device is shown in FIGs. 5-7. The numerals 4, 5 and 6 respectively denote polarizing plates, retardation films and a liquid crystal cell. As shown in the figures, required numbers of the polarizing plates and the retardation films can be combined suitably to apply to one or both surfaces of the liquid crystal cell. Similarly, two or more liquid crystal cells such as a combination of a cell for display and a cell for compensation can be used. The intersection angle between the absorption axis of the polarizing plate and the optical axis of the retardation film can be set arbitrarily, for example, in a range of 0 to 180 degrees.